

**Town of Felton
Town Council Meeting
February 13, 2023
6:30 pm**

Mayor Clendaniel called the Town Council Meeting of Felton to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 13, 2023. Present at the meeting were:

Council Members: Mayor Joanne Clendaniel, Vice Mayor David Kelley, and Diana Dolan-Beulah.

Staff: Chief Guild, Town Manager, Amy Thomas and Town Clerk, Tracey Thompson.

Public: Debbie Virdin, MaryAnn Stumpf, Sandy Jones, and Richard Jones.

Public Comments:

Resident, Mr. Jones asked about the progress of the 102 E Main Street home and when will it be demolished. Amy explained that Kent County has come and inspected the building and the property owner either needs to do the repairs or demo the home. If the property owner fails to comply with Kent County requirements promptly the home will be put on a list to be demoed by Kent County. Unfortunately, Kent County's list is very long and this could take up to two years until the County comes in and demolishes the home.

Police Report:

Chief Guild presented the January 2023 police report. Chief stated the white Durango is on the road. Chief explained that the recent car thefts on the west side of town; the suspects have been arrested and most of the stolen items were found. The Police department had a total of 256 calls of service in the month of January.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Kelley made a motion to accept the January 2023 Police Report. Councilmember Dolan-Beulah seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Felton Fire Company Report:

There was no Felton Fire Company report.

Public Works Report:

Amy presented the January 2023 Public Works Report. Along with their daily operations they scraped curbs, cut and loaded brush, repaired the tarp and chainsaw, assisted with the new water service on Walnut Street and painted curbing for handicap spot at Town Hall. They also painted another stop line at Railroad Ave for the bus driver that has been complaining.

Budget Report:

Amy presented the February 2023 Budget report. There were no questions or concerns.

Motion: Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to accept the January 2023 Budget Report. Vice Mayor Kelley seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Mayor Clendaniel presented the January 9, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes and the February 8, 2023 Planning and Zoning Minutes.

Motion: Vice Mayor Kelley made a motion to accept the January 9, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes, and the February 8, 2023 Planning and Zoning Minutes. Councilmember Dolan-Beulah seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Date of Council Election:

Amy stated that we are having an election and it will be on March 6, 2023 from 1pm- 7pm at Town Hall. March 7th will be our inclement weather date.

Present Notice of Intention to Run Forms for Council Election:

Amy presented there are three seats up for election. There are five letters of intention to run for election. The five residents that are running for a council seat are Marquise Broom, Mayor Joanne Clendaniel – current Council Member, Diana Dolan-Beulah – current Council Member, David Kelley – current Council Member, and Deborah Viridin.

Install Board of Elections:

Amy named the Board of Elections for Town of Felton, Betty Louise Myers, MaryAnn Stumpf, Dorothy Carroll and the alternates are Joann Morris and Janette Carroll. They took part in a zoom training last week.

First Reading- Ordinance to Repeal Article V, Title 5, Sex Offender Residency Ordinance:

Amy presented that we currently have a Sex Offender Ordinance which requires sex offenders to reside at a distance of 2,500ft from any school or daycare. In 2018 the State amended Title 22 of the Delaware code which now requires municipalities to follow state law which is 500ft, therefore our ordinance has to be repealed.

First Reading- Ordinance Article IV, Title 32 Regulating Noise in the Town of Felton:

Amy presented the updated noise ordinance. She mentioned that they did remove the decimal levels from the ordinance (see attached).

Verizon Wireless Contract:

Amy reminded that Verizon Wireless gave us two options for a new contract. Option 1, at the end of the lease (3/31/27) Verizon would adjust the rent to \$2,500 per month with a 2% annual escalator. Option 2, the rent is modified effective 3/31/24 to \$2,750 per month with a 2.25% annual escalation. Both options Verizon would give an additional 4 terms of 5 years from 4/1/27 and ending on 3/31/47. Amy presented them with the Town’s counteroffer to go with Option 2 of \$3,115.93 per month to keep us at our current monthly income with a 2.75% escalator. Verizon countered the offer at \$2,950.00 per month rent with 2.5% annual escalation, taking effect on 04/01/2024. There was more discussion on the offer and Council agreed that was a fair offer. Amy said she will start the process of getting the contract finalized.

Motion: Vice Mayor Kelley made a motion to accept the Verizon Wireless contract offer as it was presented and to move forward with the contract. Councilmember Dolan-Beulah seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mayor Clendaniel-yes, Vice Mayor Kelley- yes, and Councilmember Dolan-Beulah-yes.

Discussion of Historical Society:

There was discussion on the maintenance of the train station building which is being used for the Historical Society. At this time, we are waiting on a bid to see how much it would cost to repair the brick work on the side of the building and Public Works is working on finding where the leak in the main room is coming from.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Motion: Councilmember Dolan- Beulah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Mayor Kelley seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

These minutes were prepared by Tracey Thompson, Town Clerk.

Tracey Thompson, Town Clerk

Date